IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Masaru KUMAZA

Serial No.: 09/212,393

Filed: December 16, 1998

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97(b)

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Group 270%

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

February 24, 1999

Sir:

The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. A copy of each of the documents is attached.

No fee is required in connection with this Information Disclosure Statement since it is being submitted prior to the issuance of a first official action on the merits or expiration of the three month period following filing of the above-captioned application.

The attached references are provided so that the Patent and Trademark Office can, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the documents cited in the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record therein and appear on the first page of any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340 for any fee which is deemed by the Patent and Trademark Office to be required to effect consideration of this statement.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI, McLELAND & NAUGHTON

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RFN/lls

Enclosures: PTO-1449/3 References